



ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

TIME IN DATABASES AND APPLICATIONS OF DATABASES

5 [In one embodiment, a] A method of providing data entities of a database with a time dependent value for an attribute of the entity [is disclosed. the method in that embodiment] comprises:

(i) having values of attributes of [said] entities in [said] the database;

10 (ii) for [said] the entities providing a valid time start time associated with each [said] the attribute;

(iii) for [said] the entities providing a valid time end time associated with each [said] value of [said] the attributes;

(iv) for [said] the entities providing a transaction time associated
15 with [said] the valid start time and [said] the valid time end time for each [said] value; whereby

(v) when querying [said] the database an appropriate [said] transaction time is used so as to ensure that an appropriate value for [said] the attribute is used and that appropriate valid time start and end
20 times are used,

update and delete of valid time start and end times being performed by insert operations which leave existing valid time start and end times unchanged.